

## REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 20, 2004. Claims 85-101 have been allowed. Claims 32-84 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution of the claims as originally filed in this application in a continuation, a continuation-in-part and/or a divisional application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 32, 55-59, 61-67 and 78-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 99/54527. Claims 32, 55-59, 61-67 and 78-84, however, have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 33-54, 60 and 68-77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/54527 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,409,903. Claims 33-54, 60 and 68-77, however, have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 67 and 68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. 2001/0015321 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,340,633. Claims 67 and 68, however, have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 69-77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. 2001/0015321 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,340,633 and U.S. Patent No. 6,409,903. Claims 69-77, however, have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 85-101 have been allowed. Claims 32-84 have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby placing the entire case in condition for allowance.

A supplemental information disclosure is submitted herewith to cite references that were disclosed in a European Search Report dated October 22, 2003 and U.S. Patent No. 6,391,166 and U.S. Patent No. 6,261,433. Applicants believe that none of these references teaches or discloses a method of depositing a metal on a substrate, which includes applying a biasing voltage configured to generate a current that

increases over time (or a ramping current) as the substrate is immersed into an electrolyte solution. Accordingly, Applicants maintain that claims 85-101 are in condition of allowance, even in view of these references.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed method or apparatus. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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